

It's not only the flowers that feel the growing urge in the spring. Seems like the solar vitamins are also having an effect on the automotive industry, for there appears to be a budding crop of new plant buildings and additions. A few of the expansion reports that have come our way reveal that Chrysler Corp. is building a new 78,000 sq. ft. building at its Highland Park plant—Packard Electric division of General Motors is undertaking an immediate building program that will add construction of a new two-story building—Cummins Engine Co. is spending \$75,000 for a new building and \$125,000 for machine equipment to fill it—Ford is spending \$1,175,000 in expanding and remodeling its plant at Windsor, Ont.—Elastic Stop Nut Corp. recently broke ground for a new plant at Union, N. J.—Mueller Electric Co. is now building a 6,000 sq. ft. floor space addition to its plant at Cleveland.

Special award for highest ranking in the automobile industry on safety design was presented to Plymouth division of Chrysler Corp. at the eleventh annual eastern Safety Conference in New York on April 18. The 1940 Trophy for safest auto design was formally presented to D. S. Eddins, Plymouth's president, by the Publication Safety Engineering which made the comparative study of present model cars.

Regular production of buna, a synthetic rubber already tested and widely used abroad, has started in this country. Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. has just completed the necessary license agreements with Standard Oil Development Co. (New Jersey) United States patent halders.

States patent holders.

Of the various types of buna produced, only two are under consideration for immediate production by Firestone. Buna N, now also called perbunan, will receive the major attention because it lends itself to many mechanical rubber goods. Buna S, used abroad in auto tires, is expected to play a minor role in tire production in this country because of its prohibitive cost.

Reo's 1940 truck program has been augmented by a line of five Diesel powered models ranging in capacity from 13,000 lb. to 22,000 lb. Each model will be built in three standard wheelbases of 120, 145 and 165 in.

The company resorts that it will

The company reports that it will start production of its 1940 line about the middle of this month. Full output is expected to be reached about June 1 with a daily output of 40 trucks.

Federal Motor Truck Co. has announced four new heavy-duty models

at rated capacities from 3½ to 7½ tons.

And, while we're speaking of trucks, a new Stewart Motor Corp., taking the name of the former Buffalo concern, now in liquidation, has started manufacture of trucks under the Stewart name at a Buffalo plant. The new company will concentrate princi-

Bodies and Fenders

pally on the manufacture of three large models similar to the larger units formerly produced at the old plant.

If you're interested in buying cars by the pound, you'll be interested in the statement by the Automobile Manufacturers Association that a complete motor car in the low-price class costs about 26 cents per pound which is cheaper than steak or butter.

Exide Appoints Two

Roland Whitehurst, formerly manager, Washington branch, The Electric Storage Battery Co., manufacturers of Exide batteries, has been appointed assistant general sales manager with headquarters at the home office of the company in Philadelphia.

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Weaver Has New Testers

The Weaver Mfg. Co., 2177 S. Ninth St., Springfield, Ill., has an-nounced several

new testers.



A new elec-tronic tachometer which operates from the primary ignition circuit is designed to test engines for peak performance, nition timing, spark plug and point setting and other points of

engine tune-up.

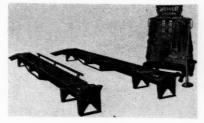
This handy little tool takes the place of the vari-

ous tools used by mechanics to re-move hub and grease caps. One end is designed to fit easily between the hub cap and the wheel, while the other end takes a firm grip on the hub grease



cap for quick removal. One side acts as a hammer for tapping the cap in place.

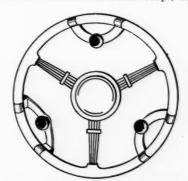
The latest model Weaver alignment outfit shown consists of the standard alignment rack, portable wheel alignment indicator, camber-caster-king pin gage, two turning radius gages,



offset axle straightener, jack stand, camber and caster correctors, tubular axle adapters and a tool display board.

Steering Wheel Pilot Knob

A steering wheel pilot knob that is attached to the steering wheel so that the knob is recessed to the level of the wheel rim rather than projecting above the rim has been announced by Hercules Automotive Sales Corp., 409



Thorpe Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn. Firmly attached to the rim at two points, the knob is said to be strong and sturdy, and to lessen driving fatigue. List price \$1.00.